

Message Text

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71

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /092 W

----- 008957

R 071020 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9798

INFO CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5863

EO: 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS VN

SUBJ: ENEMY POW CAPTURED BY US FORCES

REF: A. STATE 063498 (NOTAL) B. CINCPAC DTG 290350 Z MAR 73.

C. COMUSMACV/ MACPM DTG 281020 Z MAR 73.

1. EMBOFF CALLED APRIL 7 ON COL VU QUANG, STAFF MEMBER OF GEN HON'S CEASE-FIRE PLANNING GROUP, TO DISCUSS MATTER OF 10 US- CAPTURED ENEMY PW (EPW) STILL BEING HELD AT BIEN HOA PW CAMP (REF C). EMBOFF MENTIONED RESIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF US FOR THESE EPW UNDER ARTICLE 12 OF GENEVA CONVENTION, AND VOICED PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER 41 OF THESE EPW WHOM WE UNDERSTOOD HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT COMPLETED SERVING PRISON SENTENCES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED WHILE PW. EMBOFF REMINDED VU QUANG OF ARTICLE 6 OF PW PROTOCOL AND QUERIED HIM AS TO GVN PLANS FOR THESE EPW. VU QUANG STATED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT EPW WHO HAD BEEN SERVING PRISON SENTENCES WERE BEING HELD AT BIEN HOA PW CAMP. HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER AND INFORM EMBOFF PROMPTLY OF HIS FINDINGS.

2. EMBOFF ALSO MENTIONED PRESENCE AT BIEN HOA PW CAMP OF 62 U S- CAPTURED EPW WHO HAD REFUSED REPATRIATION. ASKED ABOUT THE FUTURE DISPOSITION OF EWP WHO HAD REFUSED REPATRIATION, COL VU QUANG STATED THAT GVN INTENDED TO RELEASE THEM

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THROUGH THE CHIEU HOI PROGRAM. REGARDING TIMING OF RELEASE, VU QUANG SAID THAT GVN AUTHORITIES WERE AWAITING ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT THIEU. EMBOFF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALL 103 US - CAPTURED EPW WOULD BE RELEASED IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT EPW SERVING PRISON SENTENCES AND THOSE CAPTURED AFTER CEASE- FIRE HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN BARGAINING POSITION OF GVN WHICH IS ANXIOUS TO SECURE RELEASE OF 410 ARVN PW EARLIER SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE BY PRG IN PLEIKU AREA AND OTHER ARVN PW GVN STRONGLY SUSPECTS PRG IS HOLDING. THESE GVN/ PRG PW NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN TPMJC BUT APPARENTLY NOT UNTIL PROGRESS IS MADE ON TONG LE CHAN ISSUE. WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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